

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kurt Thornton, Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Heather Lane-Fowler Doug Sofia
Glen Harris Kurt Thornton
Susan Baldwin, Mayor

Staff Present: Glenn Perian, Senior Planner
Eileen Wicklund, City Attorney
Leona Parrish, Admin. Assistant

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DOUG SOFIA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2010 MEETING WITH THE ADDITION THAT MAYOR BALDWIN BE NOTED IN ATTENDANCE; SECONDED BY MS. HEATHER LANE-FOWLER.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED MOTION; PASSED TO APPROVE.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

250 Champion Street (*Application for Seal Coat & Tuck Point on exterior brick – Not HDC requirement, using Federal Funds for repair work.*)

Mr. Lee Talmage, Executive Director, Battle Creek Housing Commission, 250 Champion St., was present to speak. Stated every year the Federal Government makes funding available to state housing commissions enabling them to do modernization projects. In February, 2009 the new administration in Washington announced the “American Recovery Restoration Act” which enabled them to receive additional monies to use for this purpose, their instructions were to use this money as quickly as possible to put as many persons to work as possible. Their initial desire was to do elevator work at the Kellogg Inn as they are old and do have a service contract, after giving it consideration they decided to increase the project to put more persons to work by doing seal coat and tuck point on the brick exterior and re-securing some cornice stones at the top of the building in order to keep the condition of the building in good shape. Noted they are ready to award the bid to a general contractor; because of the highly political nature of the American Recovery Restoration Act, Stimulus Program they need to get HDC approval because it is within a Historic District and want to cover all their bases in order not to lose the funding.

Mr. Glen Harris asked if they were using a local general contractor to do the work. Mr. Talmage stated, no; the lowest bid was the Omega Company from Indiana. Said there was a large amount of paper work and reporting to be done to the Detroit and Washington, regarding how the monies are spent and will be closely monitored.

Mr. Glen Harris asked if they were to seal all the brick. Mr. Talmage stated he understands that in order to protect the brick from the weather; the contractor is recommending the clear coating be applied and should be reapplied every 5 to 7 years.

Mr. Kurt Thornton provided some historical facts regarding the building; 1926 W. K. Kellogg being superstitious lived on the seventh floor until the end of his life. Noted in the past the Kellogg Foundation also had an office at this location.

Mr. Talmage stated the Battle Creek Housing Commission had purchased this building in 1980 and moved its main offices from 10 Place St. which is Cherry Hill Manor. Noted they had recently renovated the lobby area and welcomed the Historic Commission to come and see the renovation.

Mr. Talmage noted they might be submitting another application at a later date regarding the retaining wall on the west side and replacement of the chain link fence with wrought iron to bring the period of time back.

Mr. Thornton asked what the current clientele was for the building. Mr. Talmage stated they currently have 70 apartments of which they can accept those that are below 50 % of median income; however most of their families are all below 30% of median income that consist of seniors and peoples with disabilities.

Mr. Thornton stated he was glad to see the Housing Commission take such good care of the building.

MOTION: MADE BY MR. DOUG SOFIA TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION REQUEST AND BE IN SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING: SEAL COAT & TUCK REPAIR ON EXTERIOR BRICK AND SECURE LOOSE CORNICE STONES; FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 250 CHAMPION STREET, AS SUBMITTED; SUPPORTED BY MR. GLEN HARRIS.

ALL IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED; MOTION PASSED TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSED WORK TO BE DONE AS SUBMITTED.

It was noted the type of work they are doing does not require HDC approval. Because the property is in a Historic District and the use of Federal Grant monies; the Government requires it to be presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF:

Mr. Glenn Harris noted he would not be available for the March and April HDC meetings.

Mr. Kurt Thornton provided the commission a hand-out of quotes regarding "You know you grew up in Battle Creek when..."

Ms. Heather Lane-Fowler asked if Kim Tuck would be appointed to the HDC. Ms. Leona Parrish, Secretary noted the contact information had been provided to the Mayor and that the City Attorney's Office is looking at how persons are appointed to boards and commissions.

Mayor Baldwin provided an explanation, stating that most cities in that there is more structure in the process of appointing people to committees they have persons fill out on paper their name, address and phone numbers. We then have a list of all our committees noting when they meet etc. and can maybe publish or put on the web site, so if someone is interested they can submit their information and this would help them to appoint members.

Mr. Kurt Thornton referenced the comment made by City Manager, several months past regarding HDC members receiving some education on making motions, etc; and what the status was? Mr. Glenn Perian stated that he would mention it to Ms. Hilton, Planning Supervisor and believe she is working on it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Doug Sofia to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mr. Glen Harris; all in favor none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by: Leona A. Parrish, Administrative Assistant, Planning Department